

Western US Snow update, Reservoir Legislation

Last week's storms benefited us greatly, with 2 1/2" of precip over the Feather River basin, and 1.8" in the Northern Sierra over the weekend.

As of 4/23/2007, the total 8-station seasonal precipitation stands at 34.3", or 77% of average to date. Snowpack had a slight bump during the cold, wet period; up 6 percentage points from the date of last writing; April 18. Now the statewide average snow pillow (sensor) measurements are at 38% of normal; 9". The May 1 snow survey will be conducted next week, so look for the next Newsletter once the numbers are posted. That will be the final snow course measurement of the season.

Other western U.S. snow measurements vary by region; from good seasonal tallies in Colorado, Washington, Idaho and Montana, but poor readings for California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah.

The WEEKLY SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION REPORT put out by the National Water and Climate Center in Portland, Oregon shows the following:

Percent of Average Snow Water Equivalent
(range from low to high of basin averages)

Alaska	18-92%
Arizona	4-28%
California	35-79%
Colorado	57-105%
Idaho	29-85%
Montana	65-96%
Nevada	16-77%
New Mexico	4-101% (Most variable; max at Sangre de Cristo Mountain range basins)
Oregon	0-91%
Utah	5-52%
Washington	62-107%
Wyoming	8-94%

Weather forecast is basically dry, with May 2/3 possibly squeezing out a few drops of rain in far Northern California and the high country; nothing for valleys, or SoCal.

Yesterday, California's Senate Committee on Natural Resource and Water rejected a bill proposing a 4 Billion dollar bond measure for 2008. It included Surface Storage

Reservoirs at Sites and Temperance Flat, the most debated and opposed aspects of the bill, which also included groundwater and Delta sustainability funds. Senate Bill 1002 did pass, appropriating \$882.5 Million in bond funding. If you are interested in water legislation, go to this link:

http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/NRW/_home/

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